



News Release

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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For Immediate Release

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HEALTH COVERAGE NOW AVAILABLE FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH UNDER THE AGE OF 21

(PHOENIX, October 6, 2000) –The Department of Economic Security’s Administration for Children, Youth and Family want to notify former foster youth under the age of twenty-one who were in state care when they turned eighteen that they may qualify for health coverage. The lack of health coverage for young adults who reached the age of eighteen while in foster care is a nationwide concern. The passage last December of the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provided the state of Arizona with the means to begin opening access to health care for this group of young adults.

This year state laws were amended to include as an “eligible person” a young adult under twenty-one years of age who was in the custody of DES when the person became eighteen years old. This amendment created the development of the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) program which provides health care coverage to those former foster youth who reached the age of eighteen while in out of home care in Arizona.

Since YATI is a Medicaid program under the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), young adults that fit this criteria are encouraged to apply for services at any DES Family Assistance Administration office. More information can also be obtained by calling the Independent Living Coordinator at (602) 542-3981.

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